(a) whether Government propose to earmark any areas in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh for tea production; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

वायुदूत सेवा से जोड़े जाने वाले शहर

1534. **श्री मीर्जा इर्शादबेग एेयुबबेग:** क्या पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) अगले छ: महीनों के दौरान देश के किन-किन शहरों को "वायुदूत" सेवा से जोड़े जाने की संभावना है; और

(ख) क्या सरकार को गुजरात के सूरत शहर को वायुदूत सेवा से जोड़े जाने की कोई मांग प्राप्त हुई है; यदि हां, तो इस सेवा को कब तक शुरू किए जाने की संभावना है ?

पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री खुर्शीद आलम खान): (क) वायुदूत की वर्ष 1984-85 में नए विमान प्राप्त हो जाने पर, प्रचालनों की आर्थिक विकासक्षमता/साध्यता तथा इन विमानक्षेत्रों पर अपेक्षित आधार संरचनात्मक सुविधाओं का विकास हो जाने पर, निम्नलिखित स्टेशनों को जोड़ने की योजनाएं हैं–

1. राजामुनन्द्री
2. कुडप्पा
3. वारंगल
4. मैसूर
5. कालीकट
6. रत्नागिरी
7. नांदेड
8. सूरत
9. रायबरेली
10. बीकानेर
11. जैसलमेर

(ख) जी, हां । जैसा कि उपर्युक्त भाग (क) में कहा गया है, सूरत उन स्टेशनों में से एक है जिनके लिए वर्ष 1984-85 में वायुदूत प्रचालन आरंभ किए जाने के बारे में विचार किया जा रहा है ।

News item captioned "Communication gap holds up T. N. Tourism Projects"

1535. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Communication gap holds up T.N. Tourism Projects" which appeared in the 'Indian Express' (Madras) on the 27th May, 1984; and

(b) if so, what steps the Tourism Department has taken to speed up the tourism projects mentioned therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Department has held several consultation with the State Government regarding the proposals relating to Tamil Nadu. In view of the constraint on resources the State Government has been asked to submit a set of proposals which it may be possible to take up in the Central Sector within the available resources.

Introduction of Yatri Vans by I.T.D.C. to serve cheap and standard food to the public

1536. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) how many Yatri Vans were put on the road by the Indian Tourism Development Corporation to serve cheap and standard food to the public in Delhi and also the expenditure incurred on these vans;

(b) what is the profit earned on these vans during the last three years, yearwise; and

(c) how many vans are likely to be put on the road in the near future in Delhi and other major cities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN): (a) ITDC deployed two Yatri Vans in Delhi during 1982-83 at a cost of Rs. 4.91 lakhs.

(b) Information is as under:

Year	Estimated Profit/Loss (+) (—) (Rs. in lakhs)
1982-83	(—) 0.95
1983-84 (provisional)(upto 1.8.83)	(—)0.42

Due to uneconomic operation, these Vans were discontinued with effect from 2.8.1983.

(c) The Corporation does not have any plan to introduce the Yatri Vans in Delhi or in other major cities in the country.

Heavy loss due to S.T.C. cardamom export deal

1537. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country has lost over Rs. 1 crore in foreign exchange due to S.T.C. 'blunders' on cardamom export deal as reported in the Business Standard dated the 21st June, 1984;

(b) if so, what corrective steps have been taken or proposed to be taken by Government in the matter; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that cardamom production has gone down despite major breakthrough in agricultural research and development and if so, what steps are proposed to be taken by Government to improve the production of cardamom?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The decline in cardamom production was mainly due to un-precedented drought which prevailed during the last two years. The major steps taken by the Government to boost the production are as under;

1. Replanting loan-cum-subsidy scheme for small growers.

2. Extension of Replantation loan-cum-subsidy scheme to large growers.

3. Production of seedlings in polythene bags in certified nurseries to distribute among the growers.

4. Opening of 200 certified nurseries for producing 24,000 seedlings of cardamom annually to distribute among the growers.

Production of spices

1538. SHRI J. K. JAIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the spices grown in our country and are available for export;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to set up a spices Board for export promotion as well as for encouraging its production;

(c) if so, by when the Board is likely to set up;

(d) what have been the foreign exchange earnings from export of spices item-wise during the last three years;

(e) what other steps are being taken to increase the production of spices in the country;

(f) whether any spices are also being imported; and

(g) if so, what are the details in this regard and the amount spent on their import, item-wise, during the last three years?